

### REMARKS

Claims 17 - 32 are in the application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has made clarifying changes to several claims including independent claims 17, 20 and 28.

Claim 27 has been rejected as being indefinite. Applicant has now revised the claim to address this issue.

Claim 17 has been rejected as anticipated by Watanabe. It is Applicant's position that Applicant's revised claim 17 clearly patentably defines over Watanabe as discussed below. Watanabe does not provide all of the features arranged as specified in the claim.

Claims 18 - 26 and 28 - 32 have been rejected as being obvious based on the teachings of Watanabe.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this rejection.

The Watanabe reference relates to an electronic tag apparatus which can be applied to form a new kind of delivery slip system or the like used for parcel delivery. As shown in Figs. 9 - 12 of the Watanabe reference the home-delivery slip 41 includes a base 45 made of a flexible material. The base 45 is provided along one end with a reinforcement 46. The reinforcement 46 accommodates a chip 51 and a battery 52 (this can be seen best in Fig. 9). The battery and chip together form a responding circuit (transponder unit) 45 along with an antenna 50. The antenna 50 is not housed in the reinforcement 46 but is instead mounted on a base 45. As such, Watanabe clearly does not teach all of the features claimed in for example claim 17. As emphasized at column 11, last paragraph, the chip 41 is provided with a reinforcement 46 to

constitute a configuration capable of withstanding external physical shocks and the like. In addition, the reinforcement 46 is described as durable enough to withstand some bending stress (column 11 lines 22 and 23). The purpose or motivation taught or suggested by Watanabe is not to place the chip on to the base 45 which is made from flexible material and therefore not adapted or convenient for shielding the chip from bending stress. The base 45 along the reinforcement 46 and the responding circuit 44 form an electronic slip sheet 47 having an adhesive back surface which is to fix the home delivery slip 41 to a parcel. Various slip copies 48 are bound with a binder 49 to the electronic slip sheet 47. The slip copies 48 can be torn off from the binder 49 in order to stay with the sender of the parcel. Accordingly, the construction taught by Watanabe only provides a connection of the slip copies 48 to the electronic slip sheet via a seam or the like between the binder 49 and the several slip copies 48.

As can be appreciated from Figs. 10 and 12 of Watanabe, one of the separate slip copies 48, i.e. the slip copy 45, which is allotted to the sender, exhibits a code-entry blank 45. This code entry blank 45 is for entering predetermined information such as the identification code. The slip copies 48 are connected to the electronic slip sheet 47 and serve as a carrier of the information for identification. Slip copies 48 are only connected to the slip sheet 47 by the seam between the slip copies and the electronic slip sheet 47.

Accordingly, the Watanabe reference does not disclose the combination of features as set forth in the claims. In a manner which differs from the known electronic tab apparatus, the invention provides an identification label that has several separate layers (i.e., an identification layer, a reinforcing layer and an adhesion layer). These separate layers together form a closed

layer compound or single composite structure with the separate layers arranged one on top of another. According to the invention the reinforcement layer of the identification label, due to the surface contact of the identification layers, provides mechanical stabilization of the identification layer. This is quite different from the structure of Watanabe. With Watanabe, neither of the base 45 nor the reinforcement 46 may have the slightest effect as to reinforcing the slip covers 48. If the slip covers 48 are considered the identification layer these do not cooperate with the other layers as specified in Applicant's claims.

The structure taught by Watanabe does not present an electronic tab apparatus with a closed layer compound of three separate layers, namely a closed layer composite of three separate layers. Instead, Watanabe simply discloses a seam connection between slip copies or sheets bound at an edge 48 and a base 45 connected to an electronic slip sheet 47.

The reinforcement 46 and the base 45 of Watanabe do not form a substrate for the transponder unit (responding unit) 44. Instead, according to Watanabe one part of the responding unit 45, i.e. the IC or chip 51 (see Fig. 9) and the battery 52 are accommodated in a region separate from the other structural parts, namely within the reinforcement 46. The other part, i.e. the antenna is arranged on the base 45. As such, the Watanabe reference directs the person of ordinary skill in the art toward an arrangement which is different from the combination claimed. Watanabe does not suggest the combination which provides the benefits and advantages of the composite structure claimed.

With the invention, in a manner which differs from known electronic structures, the transponder unit is entirely arranged on the reinforcement layer (see new claims 33 - 35). The

resulting structure (including applied adhesion layer and/or boundary layer) results in an inventive identification label wherein the label is flexible along its overall length. This allows the label to be mounted around an object such as enveloping the handle of a suitcase.

The combination of features as claimed highlight a structure which has advantages over the prior art and which departs from the general teachings of the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider the claims as now presented.

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